

*AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION*

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 28 with:

Thus, the optical image contrast, depending on the transmittance of the X-ray absorbers 2 of the X-ray mask, varies with the transmittance of the X-ray absorbers 2 also when the geometric phase difference and the phase shift quantity of the X-ray absorbers 2 are at optimum values. It is therefore understood that the resolution of the pattern can be improved by properly selecting the transmittance of the X-ray absorbers ~~2~~ 2.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 18 with:

In an X-ray mask 1, an X-ray transmitter 3 is prepared from diamond, while each of X-ray absorbers 2 has a two-layer structure consisting of a tungsten layer and a diamond layer. Portions provided with the X-ray absorbers ~~2~~ 2 and those provided with no X-ray absorbers ~~2~~ 2 form an L & S pattern having a period of a pitch of 70 nm.